



THE Mainstream

Annual Fire Hydrant Inspections

This time each year, YCUA winterizes the over 3,000 fire hydrants in its system and checks their operation for fire protection. The procedure involves an employee completing an inspection of the internal workings of each fire hydrant, making repairs, and removing water from the hydrant barrels to prevent freezing. YCUA will also flush or run each fire hydrant to insure that it will operate properly during an emergency. As part of this process, each fire hydrant is tagged with a ribbon to indicate that the winterization has been completed. The color of the ribbon changes each year and, this year, the color green was selected.



A tagged fire hydrant, indicating that it has been inspected and winterized.

Area residents should be advised that, as crews flush fire hydrants, there may be some discoloration of the water. If rust-colored water is experienced, simply run the cold water tap for a few minutes to let the water clear. Please keep in mind not to wash any light colored clothing until the water is running clear.

The rust coloring is caused by a natural buildup of minerals in the water system.

The fire hydrant inspection program helps insure that all of our fire hydrants are ready in the event of an emergency.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact YCUA Director of Service Operations Bob Fry at 484-4600 ext. 307.

From The Director

As winter approaches, it's important to remember that freezing temperatures can put the water pipes in your home at risk. Severe winter weather can cause your pipes to freeze and even possibly burst. These tips can help you safeguard your water pipes against freezing:

- *Locate the main water supply and water heater valves in case you need to access them quickly in an emergency.*
- *If a sink is against an outside wall, open the under-sink cabinet doors to allow the circulation of warm air from inside the home.*
- *Wind drafts during severe cold can increase the chance of pipes freezing. Near exterior walls, windows, and in crawl spaces, seal drafts and wrap pipes with insulation or heating tape.*
- *During severe winter weather, keep a faucet open slightly and dripping.*
- *Learn the location of your water meter and take the above precautions to keep it from freezing, especially if your meter is located in unheated basement or crawl space.*
- *Consider keeping your basement heated and installing window weather stripping.*
- *Shut off water supply valves if you plan to be away from home for an extended period of time.*

In the event that you experience a burst pipe in your home and your main shut off is not working properly or you have trouble locating or closing it, please call YCUA at 484-4600. - Jeff Castro, YCUA Director

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- Jeff Castro, YCUA Director

YPSILANTI COMMUNITY UTILITIES AUTHORITY



YCUA's semiannual newsletter dedicated to enhancing water and wastewater services.

YCUA Employees Participate in Red Cross Blood Drive

On June 1, 2017, 25 YCUA employees participated in a Red Cross blood drive. As a result of this, 24 people were provided with lifesaving benefits. The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every two to three seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

The American Red Cross is the largest single supplier of blood in the U.S., collecting approximately 5.3 million units of blood from roughly 3.1 million donors nationwide. Providing life-saving blood and blood products to patients is a key component of the Red Cross mission to help people in times of emergency and disasters.

The Red Cross is implementing initiatives throughout the country to increase the number of blood donors in diverse communities and raise awareness of the need to give blood. The Red Cross also works to find rare blood donors to meet the specialized needs of patients all over the country.



YCUA Earns High Safety Ratings

Michigan Municipal League Presents YCUA With Loss Control Award

The work that the men and women of YCUA perform can place them in dangerous situations where an injury can be very serious. Much of that work involves excavations, heavy equipment, and environmental issues. Fortunately, the Authority has an outstanding record that has kept its employees safe.

This is evidenced by recent statewide honors received from the Michigan Municipal League's Workers' Compensation Fund. YCUA has been presented with one of their 2016-2017 Loss Control Achievement Awards for having one of the lowest Experience Modification Factors (EMF) ratings of all of the fund's members. The EMF is a measure of frequency and severity of injuries in the workplace where 1.0 is considered average. The Authority's EMF of .72 was among the ten lowest in the state.

This rating is a reduction from .92 in 2012. Not only is this an indication of safe practices, but it also reduces the cost of YCUA's insurance, a savings that is passed on to our customers. "These awards represent the best of the

best when it comes to communities being safe places for their employees and citizens," said Michael Forster, director of risk management services for the Michigan Municipal League.

YCUA is very proud to have received this award as it is a direct reflection upon its employees' safety efforts that are being put forth each and every day as well as the Authority's sound and aggressive safety practices, constant training, responsible employees and management, and YCUA

Board support. This achievement is credited to YCUA's employees, managers, and past and present Safety Manager.



Rod Pearson from the Michigan Municipal League presented the safety award to Don Nichols, YCUA Safety Manager.

Have a Water Efficient H₂Ooliday!

Preparing for and cleaning up after holiday meals and parties can use much more water than ordinary, everyday use. Running your tap continuously while preparing food or washing dishes wastes water and can use more than two gallons of water every minute your tap is running. That's a lot when you're cooking a big meal for extended family members and friends! Find ways to reduce your water and energy use, for example:



- Scrape dirty dishes clean instead of using water to rinse them before you put them in the dishwasher.

- If you don't use a dishwasher, fill the sink with a few gallons of soapy wash water, wash your dishes, and put them aside. Then rinse them all together afterward.

Either of these simple practices could save 10 gallons of water. If every American household reduced their water use by 10 gallons on just Thanksgiving Day, it would save more than 1 billion gallons of water, as well as save any energy or materials used to pump or treat tap water.

Source: EPA.gov

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

- Helen Keller

YCUA Employee Ryan Stetler named MWEA Maintenance Professional of the Year

Congratulations to YCUA staff member Ryan Stetler on receiving the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) Maintenance Professional of the Year award.

This award is a phenomenal accomplishment and is certainly well deserved by Ryan. His skills and abilities have carried him far within YCUA and it is wonderful that other organizations recognize this as well.

YCUA thanks Ryan for his leadership, dedication, and commitment. The Authority is extremely fortunate to have someone of his caliber on its team. Great job, Ryan!



YCUA Employee Ryan Stetler has been named MWEA Maintenance Professional of the Year.

Commendations for Bravery Awarded to YCUA Employees Jeremy Rippey and Cory Batey

Commendations for Bravery were recently awarded to two YCUA employees for their part in a house fire rescue that occurred on July 28th in the Gault Village neighborhood in Ypsilanti Township.

YCUA employees Jeremy Rippey and Cory Batey were completing a staking request when they heard cries for help from a nearby smoke-filled home. The pair made the appropriate emergency calls and then assessed the smoldering home while taking precautionary measures.

Mr. Batey entered the house to extract the residents, one that was



Jeremy Rippey and Cory Batey receive their commendations from YCUA Director Jeff Castro.

incapacitated and in need of artificial mobility and one with serious health conditions. Mr. Rippey directed emergency services and traffic control with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department and assisted the Ypsilanti Township Fire Department in securing the water service to the home. The YCUA employees also aided several children from another home in dangerous proximity to live downed power lines between the burning home and their own.

It is with great honor that the Authority recognizes these employees for their heroism and service to the community as well as their dedication to YCUA.

Did You Know?



With winter rapidly approaching, you can check the YCUA Facebook page for up-to-date information on water main breaks and other water-related emergencies. Like our page at [facebook.com/ypsilanticommunityutilitiesauthority](https://www.facebook.com/ypsilanticommunityutilitiesauthority) to receive important water service updates in your news feed along with customer news, tips on how to save money on your water bills, and much more.



It's Time To Winterize!

The time to prepare your home for winter is before the freezing temperatures and snow arrive. Follow these tips to help prevent frozen pipes in your home:



- Disconnect outdoor hoses and make sure hose bibs are not dripping.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas or seal off unheated areas.
- Find your water meter shutoff so if a break does occur, you can turn off your water service quickly.
- If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, contact your irrigation professional about scheduling an appointment to have your system thoroughly winterized.
- If your home's water will be turned off for winter, there should be heat to protect the meter as well as the plumbing.
- YCUA recommends that customers winterize their homes just in case there is a complete power outage.

YCUA Welcomes New Employees

YCUA recently welcomed Jennifer Troost and Jessica Woods to its workforce.

Jennifer joined the wastewater team and Jessica joined the customer service group. Both employees bring their education and work experience as great additions to YCUA. Congratulations!

Holiday closings

YCUA is closed on the following dates:

November 10 - Veterans' Day
November 23 & 24 - Thanksgiving
December 25 & 26 - Christmas
January 1 & 2 - New Year

We wish our customers a safe and enjoyable holiday season!



Need more information?

Please visit us at
www.ycua.org
or call
734-484-4600